



THE WORSHIPFUL SOCIETY OF APOTHECARIES OF LONDON
FACULTY OF THE HISTORY AND PHILOSOPHY OF MEDICINE AND PHARMACY

‘HISTORY OF PEYOTE’
MIKE JAY, Writer



GIDEON DE LAUNE LECTURE

6pm, Wednesday, 1st July 2020
Apothecaries Hall, Black Friar’s Lane, London EC4V 6EJ

Mike Jay is an author and curator who has written widely on scientific and medical history. His books on psychoactive drugs include *High Society: mind-altering drugs in history and culture* (Thames & Hudson 2010), which accompanied the exhibition he curated with Wellcome Collection, and *Mescaline: a global history of the first psychedelic* (Yale University Press 2019). He is a research affiliate at the UCL Health Humanities Centre.

The peyote cactus (*Lophophora williamsii*) has been used in its native Mexico for healing, divination and magic since pre-Hispanic times. During the late nineteenth century it was adopted by the Plains tribes of the Southwest USA as a medicine and sacrament. At the same time it attracted the interest of pharmaceutical companies, and in 1893 it was brought to market as a tincture by Parke, Davis. It failed to find a defining application in western pharmacy, but within the more broadly conceived ‘medicine’ of the Native American Church it has established itself as a powerful therapeutic.

Library open from 5pm. Refreshments from 5:30pm.

Join us for a subscription buffet supper after the lecture:

Faculty Members £25 Non-members £30 Students £10

For those attending the lecture, a suggested voluntary donation (£5 members, £10 non-members) to support the Faculty would be most welcome. Gift aid envelopes will be available

Please book with Maria Ferran, Faculty Manager, by 25th June 2020

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